



February 4, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Kelly M. Smith, Owner of KGS Insurance Services, LLC in Middletown. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees.

I am an employer and I have over 150 employers as clients. Most of my clients already have a very rich benefits package and treat their employees more than fairly. Most are struggling in a tough economy and a mandate such as this sends the wrong message. We are trying to preserve jobs and increasing business costs will only force us to eliminate positions or take away benefits we can control. As I always explain to my employees – revenue vs. expenses, if revenue is down and expenses keep going up something will have to change. It is that simple it all comes from the same pool.

I urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly M. Smith".

Kelly M. Smith
Owner